Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-12 are pending in the application, with 2, 9, 11, and 12 being the independent claims. Claim 1 is sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 has been amended in independent form as claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 10 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Judith U. Kim

Attorney for Applicants

Gudith U. Cim

Registration No. 40,679

Date: January 18, 2000

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.

Suite 600

Washington, D.C. 20005-3934

(202) 371-2600